

NOTES FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, March 1, 1882.

The national bank notes received for redemption to-day amounted to \$207,000.

The receipts from internal revenue to-day were \$265,311 39, and from Customs \$747,-751 89.

The House to-day dismissed the contested election case of Lanier against King, from the Fifth District of Louisiana.

Samuel M. Blatchford, Deputy Collector in the New-York Custom-house, has been appointed Deputy Collector in charge of the Fifth Division, in place of Isaac D. Balch, resigned.

Postmaster-General Howe has delegated to the Third Assistant Postmaster-General the authority to sign warrants for the payment of money from the Treasury to meet the expenses of the postal service.

The House to-day considered and passed the Indian Appropriation bill, being the fourth of the regular appropriation bills thus far acted upon by that body. The total amount appropriated by the bill is \$4,920,203, an increase over the bill of last year of \$351,600, and a decrease of \$921,000 from the estimates.

The Speaker laid before the House to-day a Message from the President transmitting a letter from the Superintendent of the Naval Observatory, inclosing a draft of a bill with estimates of appropriation necessary for the observation of the transit of Venus on Dec. 9. The bill appropriates \$85,000 for observations to be taken at Cape Town, Santiago, New-Zealand, and Cordova.

Mr. Voorhees introduced a bill in the Senate to-day to protect innocent purchasers of patented articles, which provides that it shall be a valid defense to any action for an infringement of any patent, or any suit to enjoin any person from the use of a patented article, that the defendant purchased the article for use or consumption and not for sale or exchange without notice that the same was covered by a patent, or without notice that the seller had no right to dispose of such articles. It also provides that notice received after purchase shall not impair in any way the right of the purchaser to absolute ownership.

During the first four months of the current fiscal year there was a monthly increase in the internal revenue receipts ranging from \$1,013,-725 in July, to \$2,522,495 in October. Since the latter month there has been a falling off. The increase during November as compared with the same month in 1880 was only \$683,600. During December the increase was only \$302,-711; during January, \$655,125, and during February there was a decrease as compared with those of 1881 amounting to \$274,650. This is the first decrease in the receipts since the agitation of a reduction in the tobacco tax two years ago. The decrease is thought to be attributable to the unsettled question of taxation, and unless speedy action is taken by Congress there is reason to fear that a greater decrease may occur in the near future.

The House Committee on the Improvement of the Mississippi River gave a further hearing to-day to Capt. James B. Eads. He laid great stress upon the importance of gradually closing up or lessening the discharge of the Mississippi River through the Atchafalaya, a few miles below the mouth of the Red River, and predicted that otherwise the whole volume of the Mississippi River would in course of time take that route to the sea. Capt. Eads was asked by a member of the committee whether he had any plan that would prevent such disastrous overflows as the present one, and he stated that if the gaps in the levees were repaired, which could be done at an expense of \$2,000,000, such overflows would not occur and the low-water navigation of the Mississippi from Cairo down would be greatly improved.

Senator Vest introduced a bill to-day to prohibit the issue of bank-notes or currency by national banks that may be organized or re-organized after July 1, 1882. He said he saw by the papers this morning that the Attorney-General had delivered an official opinion to the effect that under existing laws, without additional legislation by Congress, the national banks could continue their existence with the same privileges and powers now conferred by existing statutes. By the report of the Controller of the Currency it appeared that 393 of these institutions would go out of existence between May 1, 1882, and Feb. 1, 1883. Without legislation, then, the present banking system must continue for an indefinite period. He simply desired to bring the question fairly and squarely before the representatives of the people, and for that reason introduced the bill which provided that that feature of the present law which confers upon national banks the power to issue currency upon bonds of the United States shall cease as to banks organized or re-organized after July 1, 1882.